

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJECT: TWELVE ANGOLAN JOURNALISTS EXPELLED TO PORTUGAL

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMISSION, COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LIBERATION ARMIES AND THE PORTUGUESE ARMY, ISSUED A DECREE ON MARCH 6 SENDING TWELVE JOURNALISTS FROM ANGOLA TO PORTUGAL.

2. TWO GROUPS WERE INVOLVED. ONE IS COMPOSED OF TEN PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH THE PUBLICATION OF A LITTLE KNOWN CLANDESTINE MAGAZINE, "VIDA PORTUGUESA", WHICH WAS PRINTED IN LUANDA, THEN SENT BY TRUCK TO SOUTH AFRICA, WHERE IT IS DISTRIBUTED TO THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNITIES, AND SENT, AS WELL TO RHODESIA AND BRAZIL. THE MAGAZINE HAD A STRONG ANTI-ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT BIAS AND MAY HAVE HAD CONNECTIONS WITH FORMER PORTUGUESE

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SECRET POLICE (DGS) ELEMENTS NOW IN SOUTH AFRICA. NONE OF THE

TEN PEOPLE EXPELLED FOR ASSOCIATION WITH THIS JOURNAL WAS A MEMBER OF THE JOURNALISTS UNION, NOR ARE ANY KNOWN TO US AS JOURNALISTS OR WRITERS.

3. THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION, RUI MONTEIRO (MPLA), SHOWED ME A COPY OF "VIDA PORTUGUESA". IT IS A SEMI-SLICK JOB, WITH A GOOD MANY PICTURES, PHOTONOVELA AND ARTICLES CRITICIZING THE ALVOR AGREEMENT AND SUPPORTING THE WHITE REACTION IN MOZAMBIQUE. THE MASTHEAD APPEARS TO GIVE ALL THE DATA ONE MIGHT REQUIRE OF SUCH A PUBLICATION AND LISTS THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PRINTING COMPANY IN LUANDA WHERE THE MAGAZINE IS PRODUCED. WHEN I ASKED WHAT WAS CLANDESTINE ABOUT IT, THE MINISTER REPLIED THAT THE MINISTRY DID NOT KNOW OF ITS EXISTENCE, AS IT HAD NEVER RECEIVED A COPY. I GATHER, TOO, THAT THE MAGAZINE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN PROPERLY REGISTERED.

4. THE MORE SERIOUS CASE CONCERNS THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE "NOTICIA", WHOSE DIRECTOR, JOAO FERNANDES, AND A REPORTER, SOUSA DE OLIVEIRA, WERE ARRESTED AND SENT TO PORTUGAL FOR THE PUBLICATION OF ARTICLES CONSIDERED DEFAMATORY TO THE AFM. TWO ARTICLES ARE MENTIONED IN THE COMMUNIQUE. ONE IS A PIECE ENTITLED "OPEN THE DOOR, WE ARE FROM COPCON - THE NEW FEAR" THAT COMPARES THE TACTICS OF THE CONTINENTAL OPERATIONAL COMMAND WITH THE OLD SECRET POLICE AND EQUATES ITS COMMANDER, BRIGADIER OTELO DE CARVALHO WITH THE FORMER SECRET POLICE CHIEF OF THE OVERSEAS PROVINCES, SAO JOSE LOPES. THE OTHER IS A REPRINT OF AN ARTICLE BY THE BRAZILIAN JOURNALIST/POLITICIAN CARLOS LACERDA THAT APPEARED IN "O ESTADO DE S. PAULO" IN BRAZIL ON JANUARY 12, 1975 ENTITLED "AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC." THIS LETTER STRONGLY REPROVES PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES FOR PERMITTING THE AFM TO LEAD PORTUGAL DOWN THE ROAD TO COMMUNISM.

5. THE JOURNALISTS UNION REACTED SWIFTLY TO THE EXPULSION, ISSUING A COMMUNIQUE DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF A FREE PRESS AND ATTACKING THE EXTRA-JUDICIAL ACTS OF THE AFM IN ARRESTING THE TWO WRITERS FROM NOTICIA. NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO DEFEND THE TEN PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH THE CLANDESTINE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"VIDA PORTUGUESA." THE UNION SAID THAT IF PORTUGUESE WRITERS IN THE METROPOLE ARE FREE TO ATTACK THE ANGOLAN LIBERATION GROUPS AND ARE NOT EXPELLED TO ANGOLA FOR SO DOING, THEN WHY SHOULD ANGOLA WRITERS BE EXPELLED TO PORTUGAL FOR ATTACKING PORTUGUESE INSTITUTIONS. THE JOURNALISTS CALLED ON THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CASE AND TRY THE TWO WRITERS HERE IN ANGOLA.

6. IN A SEPARATE COMMUNIQUE THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION
SUSPENDED PUBLICATION OF "NOTICIA" UNTIL THE COMMISSION
FOR SOCIAL INFORMATION CAN DECIDE WHAT ACTION TO TAKE ON
THE MATTER.
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